"The urge to economic and social change under present conditions comes from the fact of poverty and of inequalities in income, weather and opportunity. The elimination of poverty cannot, obviously, be achieved merely by redistributing existing wealth. Nor can a programme aiming only at raising production remove existing inequalities. The two have to be considered together; only a simultaneous advance along both these lines can create the conditions in which the community can put forth its best efforts for promoting development. The problem, therefore, is not one of merely re-channelling economic activity within the existing socio-economic framework; that framework has itself to be remoulded so as to enable it to accommodate progressively those fundamental urges which express themselves in the demands for the right to work, the right to adequate income, the right to education and to a measure of insurance against old age, sickness and other disabilities.... "

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU) : Please conclude. Time is over. It is 5 o'clock. The resolution lapses.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, बिना समाजवाद की स्थापना के बेकारी की समस्या हल नहीं हो सकती है इसलिए समाजवाद की स्थापना अति अनिवार्य है ।

RESOLUTION REGARDING MINISTERS, ALLOWANCES MEDICAL TREATMENT AND OTHER PRIVILEGES) AMENDMENT RULES, 1987

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to move the fololwing Resolution :

"This House approves the draft Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and Other Privileges) Amendment Rules 1987, framed under sub-section (1) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952) and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1987."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE JUTE PACKAGING MATERIALS (COMPULSORY USE IN PACKAGE COMMODITIES) BILL, 1987

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : Sir I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the compulsory use of jute packing material in the supply and distribution of certain commodities in the interests of production of raw jute and jute packaging material, and of persons engaged in the production trereof, and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a few preliminary observations as to why we have brought this legislative proposal before the House. The jute industry is one of our important traditional industries like the textlies and it has a pivotal role to play in the economy of the Eastern Region of our country. Raw jute farming supports four million agriculture families in the States of West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Bihar, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura. Majority of the jute farmers are in the small and marginal categories. On the industrial front around 2. 5 lakh workers are dependent on this industry. A number of down stream and inter-connected activities are supported by the jute economy. Even today the industry fetches around Rs. 300 crores in the form of foreign exchange. The Government have, therefore, a solemn responsibility towards raw jute farming community and the industrial workers whose dominant socio-economic interests have to be properly protected. The present

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

legislation has been brought forward to look after the interests of these people.

You are aware that the Government have initiated a series of measures for the development of jute industry over the last few months. Very recently Prime Minister had announced a package of measures for strengthening this sector by the setting up of Rs. 150 crore Jute Modernisation Fund and constitution of a Jute Special Development Fund of Rs. 100 crores. In close conjunction with these schemes the present legislative measure is also considered necessary in the long term interest of jute industry. Out of a total production of 13.5 lakh metric tonnes of jute goods, more than 80 per cent constitute production of jute packaging materials in various forms. This large segment of the industry is threatened with near extinction because of adverse competition from the synthetic sector. The Government have been considering various aspects of the problem of competition faced by jute industry vis-a-vis the synthetic substitutes. The decision to provide protection to jute industry in the form of this legislation has been taken after an appreciation of the situation prevailing in the jute sector on the one hand and the needs and requirements of the economy on the other. It is not the intention of the Government to provide for 100 per cent usage of jute packaging material. The legislation itself is an enabling legislation giving sufficient scope and power to the Central Government to decide the percentage levels of commodities to be prescribed for packing in jute material. The all important provision in this legislation for the setting up of a Standing Advisory Committee and the guidelines to be followed by this Committee are sufficient safeguards to ensure that not only the jute interests are protected but the other packaging sectors ar also given their legitimate role to play in the economy of the country.

With these words, I commend this Bill for consideration by the Hon'ble Members of the House.

The question was proposed.

*SHRI NARAYAN KAR (Tripura): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Hon. Minister has moved the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Bill, 1987. I would like to say a few words on the Bill while supporting it. The jute industry in our country is passing through great crisis. The question of crisis in jute industry is also reflected in the speech of the Hon. Minister that he made just now while moving the Bill. While discussing the crisis in jute industry we shall have to go back to the day when India became an independent country. After independence most of the area under jute cultivation fell in the erstwhile East Pakistan whereas most of the jute mills were in Indian Union. At that time the first Prime Minister of India, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, made an appeal to the farmers of West Bengal to produce jute in adequate quantity so that most of the jute mills in Calcutta might not be closed for want of raw materials. He assured the farmers that they would be helped by the Central Government adequately if they produce jute for the jute industries. The farmers responded to the appeal of the Prime Minister and succeeded in producing surplus jute. But, unfortunatly, whenever the farmers produced surplus jute, the price of jute fell. Consequently, the farmers never got remunerative prices for their jute produce. The plight of jute growers was discussed many times in this House.

My main point is that the jute growers in Assam, Tripura, West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa have produced surplus jute. Most of the Jute Mills are located in West Bengal and maximum number of workers have been retrenched from the jute mills in that State. Two lakh fifty thousand workers are connected with jute industry. Forty lakhs jute growers are connected with jute cultivation. Crisis in jute industry has led to the growth of serious unemployment problem in the country. Jute bags are facing stiff competition from synthetic bags in the market. Jute industries resort to closure and lock-outs due to reduced demand of jute goods in the internal and

* English translation of the original speech delivered in Bengali.

external markets. Synthetic bags are being imported into our country. They are gradually occupying the internal market of jute goods. Now-a-days, in our country, foodgrains and other commodities are being stored in synthetic bags. Therefore, the mill owners retrench surplus workers because of fal in demanl for jute goods. The jute industry is really passing through a serious crisis.

It has always been our demand that the Central Government should come forward to save the jute industry from crisis. It is a fact that the rural economy of West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Bihar and Orissa has received a serious set-back due to crisis in jute industry. A huge quantity of P.V.C. Granuil is being imported into our country. Consequently synthetic bags are being manufactured in our country with less cost of production and these bags are available in our markets at cheaper prices. The synthetic bags have virtually captured our market because of low prices and other facilities. So, the crisis in jute industry continues. I would, therefore, request the Hon. Minister to restrict the import of P.V.C. Granuil so that the demand for jute bags in the internal market may grow again. Our demand is that the use of jute bags for all possible commodities should be made compulsory. But the Bill does not say about the compulsory use of jute bags for all possible commodities for all time.

The Bill provides for the constitution of a Standing Advisory Committee. Our demand is that this Committee should consist of representatives of Jute Mill owners, jute growers and jute mill workers. Unless it is done, the jute growers and jute mill workers will not be able to safeguard their interests. So the Government should consider our demand while enacting this legislation.

Recently, the Prime Minister promised to give Rs. 250 crores to the Jute Mill owners in West Bengal in order to enable them to modernise their jute industries. I am not opposed to modernisation of jute industries. I only want that the jute mill owners and the Central Government should give a guarantee that modernisation of jute industries will not lead to the retrenchment of workers. Unless this guarantee is given more workers are likely to be retrenched in future. It is, therefore, necessary to stop the retrenchment of workers.

The Central Government may take certain steps for saving the jute industry from crisis but they will not succeed ultimately. The only remedy for the malady of jute industry is the nationalisation of this industry. This has been our long standing demand that the jute industry should be nationalised. I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to come forward in nationalising the jute industry in order to safeguard the interests of two lakh fifty thousanl jute mill workers and forty lakh jute growers. With these words, I conclude and support the Bill.

श्री केशव प्रसाद शुक्ल (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं जूट पैकेज सामग्री (पैक की जाने वाली वस्तुओं में अनिवार्य प्रयोग) विधेयक, 1987 का समर्थन करता हूं । जूट उत्पादन और जूट से तरह-तरह के सामान बनाने का उद्योग हमारे देश के पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र के लाखों किसानों, मजदूरों की जीविका का प्रमुख साधन है । हमारे देश की अर्थ व्यवस्था में जूट का महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है खास तौर से ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था का यह आधार है । जूट पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र के किसानों की कैश क्राप है । इससे जूट मिलों को कच्चा माल प्राप्त होता है और वहां से रस्सी, रस्से, बोरे-बोरी, कपड़े, फट्टे तथा अन्य जूट की वस्तुएं बनाई जाती हैं जिनका प्रयोग नाना प्रकार की वस्तुओं को पैक करने के लिए किया जाता है । वर्तमान समय में विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी के विकास के कारण सैन्थेटिक के कृत्रिम रेशों के उत्पादन से कच्चे जूट के उत्पादन तथा उससे बनाए जाने वाले सामानों के उत्पादन पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ रहा है जिससे किसानों और मजदूरों तथा उत्पादकों को बेरोजगारी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है । इसको रोकने के लिए इस विधेयक के द्वारा जूट तथा जूट से बने सामानों का, पैक की जाने वाली वस्तुओं में प्रयोग

[श्री केशव प्रसाद शुक्ल]

करना अनिवार्य किया जा रहा है जो अत्यंत प्रशंसनीय है । मैं सरकार को यह विधेयक प्रस्तुत करने के लिए धन्यवाद देता हूं । वास्तव में यह विधेयक बहुत पहले प्रस्तुत हो जाना चाहिए था । हम लोगों ने देखा कि है हमारे यहां की जूट मिलें बंद हो रही हैं, उत्पादन कम हो रहा है इसके लिए यह जो कदम उठाया गया है यह सामयिक कदम है । इसको बहुत पहले उठा देना चाहिए था । मगर 'देर आयद दुरुस्त आयद' की जो कहावत है ठीक है उसके मुताबिक जब यह आया है तो इससे उनको राहत मिलेगी; इसलिए मैं इसका स्वागत करता हूं । इससे निश्चित ही कच्चे जूट का उत्पादन बढ़ेगा तथा उससे बनने वाले सामानों के भी उत्पादन में वृद्धि होगी और किसान-मजदूरों को बेरोजगार होने से बचाया जा सकेगा । इस विधेयक में केन्द्रीय सरकार को अधिकार दिया गया है कि वह समय-समय पर अधिसूचना जारी कर जूट तथा जूट से बनी वस्तुओं में जूट का प्रतिशत तथा उसके प्रयोग को अनिवार्यता सुनिश्चित करे । इस प्रकार जूट उद्योग तथा उसके प्रतिस्पर्धी उद्योगों के बीच संतुलन कायम रखने का भी प्रयत्न किया गया है । विधेयक की धारा 2 में जूट पैकेट सामग्री की परिभाषा में जूट, जूट सूत, जूट डोरी, जूट डोरा, कपड़ा, हैसियन कपड़ा, जूट थैले या अन्य सामग्री को शामिल किया गया है जिसमें भार के आधार पर जूट 75 प्रतिशत से कम न हो । जूट सामग्री के प्रयोग विद्यमान के स्तर, उपलब्ध कच्चे जूट की मात्रा, उपलब्ध जूट सामग्री की मात्रा, जूट उद्योग और कच्चे जूट के उत्पादन में लगे हुए व्यक्तियों का संरक्षण, जूट उद्योग को निरन्तर बनाए रखने की आवश्यकता आदि के संबंध में केन्द्रीय सरकार को राय देने के लिए विशेष योग्यता वाले व्यक्तियों की सलाहकार समिति गठित करने का प्रावधान किया गया है जिसकी सिफारिश पर ही केन्द्र सरकार आवश्यक कार्रवाई करेगी । विधेयक की धारा 5 में जूट पैकेट सामग्री से भिन्न किसी सामग्री में विनिर्दिष्ट वस्तु को पैक करने का प्रतिषेध किया गया है । धारा 6 में पैकेज संबंधी जानकारी और नमूनों को मांगने तथा प्रवेश और निरीक्षण करने की शक्ति केन्द्रीय सरकार को दी गई है । इस विधेयक के द्वारा तलाशी लेने तथा प्रतिषेधित सामग्री के अधिग्रहण करने की शक्ति भी केन्द्रीय सरकार को दी गई है । गलत जानकारी या नमूना न देने तथा जान-बूझ कर गलत जानकारी देने पर 50000 रुपए तक अर्थदण्ड दिया जाने का प्रावधान किया गया है, जो उचित है । इसके साथ ही कंपनियों द्वारा अपराध किए जाने पर, उसके भारसाधक अधिकारी को तथा कम्पनी को भी दंडित किया जा सकेगा तथा कम्पनी निदेशक, प्रबन्धक, सचिव या अन्य अधिकारी, जिसकी सहमति या मौनानुकूलता पर अपराध घटित होना साबित होने पर उन्हें भी दण्डित किये जाने का प्रावधान रखा गया है । अपराधों के संज्ञेय होने का प्रावधान करके उचित व सराहनीय कदम उठाया गया है ।

इस अधिनियम के बनने पर वर्तमान परिस्थितियों में जूट उत्पादन तथा जूट उद्योग के उत्पादन को संरक्षण देने तथा उसे प्रोत्साहित करने में सहायता मिलेगी और राष्ट्रीय आय को वृद्धि होगी । ग्रामीण अर्थ-व्यवस्था को सुधारने तथा उसे विकसित करने में इस विधेयक के पारित हो जाने पर सहूलियत मिलेगी । मैं अपने प्रधान मंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी को धन्यवाद देता हूं कि उन्होंने इस जूट उत्पादन के लिए विशेष रूप से ध्यान दिया है और जैसा कि हमारे मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि उन्होंने इसके लिए विशेष राशि देने की अनुकंपा की है । इसके लिए मैं उनको हृदय से बधाई देता हूं । इस विधेयक के पारित होने से जो हमारे गांव के बेरोजगार लोग हैं, गरीब लोग हैं, उनको भी बहुत बड़ मदद मिलेग । इसलिए मैं इस विधेयक का हृदय से स्वागत करता हूं और आपने मुझे इस

विधेयक पर अपने विचार इस सम्माननीय सदन में प्रस्तुत करने की अनुमति दी, जिसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं ।

SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Bill though it is long overdue. There is a crisis in the jute industry. Specially, the small and marginal farmers are facing problems. This is the only commercial crop where you can get money, some money. This needs no irrigation and it can be grown on dry lands. Now, there is a slump in the market. The jute industry needs protection. This Bill seeks to prevent the use of synthetic bags in the case of packaging of certain commodities. This is a welcome feature. The jute industry has to be developed by this step as well as through other steps.

Sir, four million farmers are engaged in this and there are 2.5 lakhs of industrial workers. Not only that. It also covers most of the farmers in the country. Incidentally, I would like to mention here that half of the Mestha jute produced in the country comes from two coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, that is, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram. Half of the Mestha jute is produced there. Unfortunately, the Jute Corporation of India has neglected these two districts. They are not recognised at all. A lot of Mestha jute is produced there. The farmers have been suffering for the last four years. They have only four centres, but no purchases have been made during the last ten years. Only last year because of the pressure brought on the JCI, there was some purchase. I am not able to understand why they are maintaining these offices paying a lot of salary to the officials there. The JCI has an important role to play in relieving the sufferings of the farmers.

As per section 4, a standing advisory committee will be appointed. It will cover most of the aspects of the jute industry. But my suggestion is that it should be a statutory body and it must have representatives of farmers, labour and public, like Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies etc. The recommendations of this body should be mandatory so that it will be able to do a lot of good to the jute industry. Another thing is that there is no check on what the JCI is doing. As far as I know, in the coastal Andhra Pradesh it is a non-functioning body. I can give an example how they are lacking in responsibility. I can give you one centre where about 12 to 15 labourers had sent a memorandum to the hon. Union Labour Minister, Shri Sangma, for bonus and other things. The hon. Minister sent a Labour Officer to enquire into it. He has given a finding that they are the regular employees of the JCI, so they have to be paid something like bonus. The labourers also sent the memorandum to the JCI, management and they struck work for some days. The JCI did not come forward for negotiations for six months. No purchases were made throughout the season because of the strike of the labour. After the pressure from the kisans, the labour agreed to join without any demands, but the JCI demanded a written note that they would never ask for wages, they would not ask for increased wages or bonus, etc. I am personally aware of this incident. Even then they refused to take the workers. There is a lot of jute in the godowns. There is no purchase in that centre for four months. The JCI has paid thousands of rupees for the godowns and also to the office staff but the workers, who were about 10 to 12 in number and who asked for only rupees one thousand, was not given to them. This is the way the JCI is functioning. Then there was a tripartite meeting. The JCI asked the labourers to withdraw the petition sent to the hon. Labour Minister. This is the way how the labour is being treated. They are treated as bonded labour. That being so the fundamental right of a citizen to more a court of law or through a process of law should be there in the JCI. This is an incident and I am prepared to prove this allegation before any government agency. This is the fact known to me personally.

Coming to section 4, there must be a provision to supervise the activities of the JCI. More centres have to be created in Andhra Pradesh, especially for the mestha jute growers. About penalty provision, there is a provision for fine. I suggest that fine is not sufficient. It must be deterrent.

[Shri Yalla Sesi Bhushana Rao]

There may be imprisonment also for big barons. Then, specified items must be regularised. For packaging there must be a research unit in the jute sector to see that they match with the synthetic packages. There should be research and development in the field of jute packaging materials. That will be useful.

With these words I welcome the Bill, though delayed. I request the hon. Minister to see to the proper functioning of the JCI also.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का शुक्रगुजार हूं कि उन्होंने अंततोगत्वा जूट को अपने विचार की परिधि में लिया । जूट का विचार अपनी परिधि में लेते हुए भी जूट का जो बेसिक आधार है किसान, वह उससे छूटता है । उसके लिए आपने जूट कारपोरेशन और मार्किटिंग यूनियन का प्रावधान किया है । लेकिन हम लोग बिहार में देखते हैं कि ये दोनों तब तक नहीं जाते जब तक छूटभइया किसानों की आवश्यकता पर सस्ते भाव पर उनकी जूट नहीं खरीद लेती । यह शिकायत बार-बार सदन में उठाई गई है । मंत्री जी को भी शायद पता होगा । मैं पुनः यह बात इसलिए कहता हूं कि हम लोग किसानों के नजदीक रहे हैं जूट उत्पादकों के नजदीक रहे हैं, उन की समस्याओं से अधिक संबंध रखते हैं । इसलिए मैं सदन का और मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना अपना पुनीत कर्तव्य समझता हूं । जूट का जब अधिक उत्पादन होगा तभी उद्योग में अधिक काम आ सकेगा । इसलिए बेसिक आधार पर इसकी भी चर्चा करना नितान्त आवश्यक था । जूट उद्योग सबसे बड़ी कठिनाई में इस लिए पड़ा है क्योंकि जूट का जो सामान बनता है उसके स्थान पर सिंथेटिक सामान बनने लगा है और सिंथेटिक सामान सस्ता और सुलभ हो गया और जूट का सामान उतना सुलभ और सस्ता नहीं हो सका ।

मैं इस विधेयक में यह देखता हूं कि आप ने जूट मिल पर जूट के पैकेज पर निरीक्षण करने का सब अधिकार दिया है लेकिन उसके कम्पेटिशन में जो आता है चाहे उसको बढ़ाना चाहता है या उस को रोकना चाहता है उसके लिए सलाहकार समिति को कोई अधिकार आपने नहीं दिया । जूट मिल जूट का निरीक्षण करेगा लेकिन जहां पर इसको निश्चित कर रहे हैं कि यह चले इसको चलाने में जो प्रतिद्वंद्विता में आने वाले हैं उसके लिए सलाहकार समिति क्या करेगी यह उसकी रक्षा कैसे करेगी यह सलाहकार समिति के उद्देश्यों, कर्तव्यों या अधिकारों में नहीं बताया गया है । मूल चीज यह है कि मुझे लगता है यह उससे छूटता जा रहा है । मैं आपका ध्यान इस बात की तरफ ले जाना चाहता हूं कि जहां पर प्रतिद्वंदिता है उस प्रतिद्वंद्विता में किस प्रकार हमारी स्थायी सलाहकार समिति काम करेगी ? इसमें दो-एक बातें जोड़ना चाहता हूं । एक तो यह कि किसानों को इंवलूड करने की बात कही है किसी न किसी तरह से तो इसमें किसी न किसी तरह से किसानों का प्रतिनिधि होना चाहिए जिस तरह प्रतिनिधि हों यह जिम्मेदारी आपके ऊपर छोड़ता हूं । लेकिन इसमें पूरा विवरण नहीं है । भले ही एक शब्द उद्योग से संबंधित है । लेकिन यह जो सलाहकार समिति बनेगी उसकी रचना करनी होगी कौन-कौन उसके प्रतिनिधि होंगे किस प्रकार से प्रतिनिधि होंगे यह इसमें नहीं है इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं किसान और उस उद्योग में काम करने वाले जो मजदूर हैं उसके प्रतिनिधि इसमें हों । हमारे अनेक माननीय सदस्यों ने इसका सुझाव भी दिया है । दो चीज और मैं इसमें जोड़ना चाहता हूं । जमाना द्रुतगति से बढ़ता जा रहा है । वैज्ञानिक युग है और जूट की रक्षा अगर हम करना चाहते हैं तो हमें इस तरफ ध्यान देना होगा मैं यह भी बताना चाहता हूं कि प्रतिद्वंदिं तब तक टिक नहीं सकेगा जब तक कि अनुसंधान के जरिए अपना कायाकल्प न कर ले । कायाकल्प करके जो उसके सामने प्रतिद्वन्दी आ गया है या

भविष्य में आने वाला है उसका कैसे मुकाबला हो इसलिए अनुसंधान का किसी न किसी तरह से उपाय करना चाहिए। मिल क्षेत्र पर, या भारत सरकार अपने क्षेत्र पर या अनुसंधानशालायें बना कर जो प्रतिद्वन्दी सामने आ गया है या आने वाला है उसका मुकाबला करना चाहिए। दूसरी चीज यह है कि हमारे मित्रों ने कहा है संसद् सदस्य और विधायकों को भी इसमें जोड़ा जाये। मैं संसद सदस्यों और विधायकों को इसलिए भी जोड़ना चाहता हूं कि क्योंकि संसद् सदस्य और विधायक को अगर आप जोड़ते हैं तो किसान स्वयं ही उससे जुड़ जाएगा। मजदूरों को भी इसमें जोड़ा जा सकता है, उनका प्रतिनिधि भी इसमें होना चाहिए। इसके साथ-साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि जूट उद्योग में 40–50 लाख आदमी काम करते हैं और यह उद्योग तीन सौ करोड़ रुपये भी अर्जित करता है लेकिन इसके अध्ययन-अध्ययन के लिए, रिसर्च के लिए कोई व्यवस्था ठीक से दिखाई नहीं देती है। छोटा-मोटा इंस्टिट्यूट हो सकता है लेकिन विशेष व्यवस्था देखने को नहीं मिलती है। इसलिए अनुसंधान की तरफ भी ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। आपका ध्यान मैं इस ओर भी आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि आप विलम्ब से इस बिल को लाये हैं। बंगाल में 69 जूट मिलें थीं, लेकिन वे घटकर 45 हो गई हैं। सिर्फ बंगाल में ही जहां पर ढाई लाख मजदूर थे वहां पर उनकी संख्या डेढ़ लाख हो गई है। यह एक ग्लेरिंग एक्जामपल है जिससे पता चलता है कि विलम्ब के कारण कितना नुकसान हुआ है। इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि आपने सलाहकार समिति बनाई है। सलाहकार समिति का काम सिर्फ उत्पादन बढ़ाना ही नहीं है, मजदूरों का हित करना भी है उनकी सुरक्षा की तरफ भी ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए। आपने इस संबंध में कोई अधिकारी नियुक्त नहीं किया है और न ही कोई अधिकार दिया है। भारत सरकार को सिर्फ उद्योग की तरफ ही ध्यान नहीं देना है बल्कि मजदूरों की तरफ भी ध्यान देना है। देखने में आता है कि उनके लिए अस्पताल का इंतजाम नहीं होता है, उनके लिए घर का इंतजाम नहीं होता है, उनके बच्चों के लिए स्कूल नहीं होते हैं। इसलिए जहां हम देश के उद्योगों की तरफ ध्यान दें वहां मजदूरों की सुख-सुविधाओं की तरफ भी ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए और इसको इस बिल के साथ जोड़ा जाना चाहिए।

श्रीमन, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं। अब हमारे देश में सीमेंट के क्षेत्र में, खाद्य के क्षेत्र में और चीनी के क्षेत्र में सिन्थेटिक बोरे आने लगे हैं। इसका असर हमारे जूट उद्योग पर भी पड़ेगा। जूट के बोरों का उपयोग अनाज के क्षेत्र में होता है। इसलिए आपको सोचना चाहिए कि वहीं इसका असर जूट उद्योग पर भी न पड़े, इसका प्रहार जूट उद्योग पर न हो, इसके लिए आप क्या सोच रहे हैं? मैं चाहता हूं कि माननीय मंत्री जी इस पर प्रकाश डालें, और इस चीज को भी इस बिल में जोड़ें। एक तरफ तो 69 मिलों में से सिर्फ 45 मिलें रह गई हैं और दूसरी तरफ ढाई लाख मजदूरों में से सिर्फ डेढ़ लाख मजदूर रह गये हैं। इसलिए केन्द्रीय सरकार को इस ओर भी ध्यान देना चाहिए। आपको किसानों, मजदूरों और उद्योग, इन तीनों की दृष्टि से इस समस्या पर सोचना होगा। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): It was exactly three years ago when the crisis in the jute industry was being discussed that I brought to the notice of the then Minister of Textiles, Shri Khursheed Alam Khan, I think, that synthetics have come in a big way in the packaging field and something must be done to alleviate the sufferings of the jute people. Why I said this was because I was a director of the 'Jammu and Kashmir undertaking called J & K Cements. While this question of packaging was being discussed someone brought forward a proposal for packing the goods in synthetic bags. I objected to it and said that we should ask the Cement Corporation of

[Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto]

India about the same. The Cement Corporation of India categorically stated—in the next meeting it was discussed—that it was not good that synthetic bags should be used in this because the bags would burst in one of the processes of the cement manufacture. I think if it was the case we should not go in for bags. Anyhow, certain lobbies worked and they said this is not the proper case, but after an indepth study it was noted that no cement factory in the country was using this. But the cement factory in Kashmir started using these bags. On further examination we found that there was a percentage of bursts in one of the processes, but still it was being used. Later on when someone in the other parts of the country came to know about it, almost the entire cement industry started manufacturing and packaging the goods in these bags. So, this is a very welcome step that you have taken, Mr. Minister, but I have to make certain observations with regard to the Bill that you have brought.

Section 3 states:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Central Government may, if it is satisfied, after considering the recommendations made to it by the Standing Advisory Committee."

I don't mind that there should be a standing Advisory Committee, but this gives me an impression that this clause—may be I am wrong and the Minister may clarify that—makes obligatory on the Government that they have to follow the recommendations of the standing Advisory Committee. Why I say this is because if some pressures are made on the standing Advisory Committee sometimes and the Government in its own judgement feels the Government should have complete authority to bypass the standing Advisory Committee recommendations and take a decision in the interest of what has been done.

The second point that I have to make about the Bill is with regard to the standing Advisory Committee. Now, with regard to the standing Advisory Committee no mention has been made about its composition. What will be the number of members on it and who will be its members? This should be specified in advance. This will enable us to know that there is no lopsidedness in favour of one industry or other and the decision taken there may not be prejudiced. I, therefore, feel this should have been stated in advance.

With regard to the composition of the standing Advisory Committee—I agree I cannot follow the Sanskritised Hindi fully, but if I have fully followed Shri Jagdambi Prasad Ji—I agree with him that in this Standing Advistory Committee at least two Members of the industry to which we are going to attach must be there. That is the synthetic industries. We should be able to prove to these synthetic industries that the jute industry is suffering as a result of this thing. That is also an industry and has to be taken care of by some Government of India undertaking. Those who are affected by this order, their views should also be taken into account by the Advisory Committee.

Third and most important point I have to state is about the penalty.

Contravention of section 5 of the Bill shall be punishable with fine which may extend to an amount equal to double the cost of the jute packaging material which should have been used in accordance with the order made under section 3. This, to my mind, is a very small penalty that is being imposed. A way should be found out that the penalty should be more, Here there is a problem for me which the Minister will kindly take into consideration. While these packaging materials are manufactured, there are two parties involved. One is the manufacturer who manufactures in the synthetic sector. You should have some control by some sort of penalties imposed on a very high scale than what is prescribed in this Bill. May be you can do it under the rules. Kindly look into this aspect. But there are other classes of traders. This synthetic packaging industry comes under the small-scale sector. I know there are some factories in the country which are situated in rooms and manufacture

these HDP bags. They manufacture these bags without licence and they can be caught in accordance with this thing or rule. But they are able to sell their commodities through the small traders which has got to be plugged. For that purpose it is essential that every HDP unit should be registered. He should give statistics of his manufacturing unit so that we can know exactly who is manufacturing.

The fourth point that I want to make is a very important one. It has been broadly suggested by my hon. friend, Mr. Jagdambi Prasad Yadav also that in order to help the jute industry first we have to specify which are the main industries. . . (time bell) I belong to the textile industrial area, I have got a little knowledge, I will try to contribute my mite. My point is that we have to see which are big industries that are using these bags. For example, cement, fertilisers and sugar industries. Of course, Food Corporation of India is a very big buyer of bags because they store foodgrains in these bags. This material is also used in package of cotton textiles and other textiles on a large scale. These are the important industries which use this material and we have to watch whether they are using it or not. You have to make a clear policy in advance with regard to the entire industry as such. In that connection only I said that we should associate those people also who manufacture the synthetic material in the Advisory Committee. You should evolve a formula under which the same synthetic manufacturers can also use jute and laminate it to the extent of 10 to 15 per cent with synthetic material so that it becomes water-proof. It is the main source of selling their product making it water-proof. A way should be found out to identify big industries and a firm policy should be evolved to use this material by the big industries or you make use of such and such percentage of this thing and if they have to be used, they have to be used with laminated synthetics with such and such percentage. Then alone, Sir, we will be able to help the jute industry. Otherwise, it will not be possible for us to help the jute industry. (Time bell rings). I am concluding, Sir. Now, I would like to say that the HDPE industries can be pursuaded by the Research and Development Wing of the Textiles Commissioner and they should be asked to make other articles which are not large consuming and if these large consuming items are manufactured by them, they are welcome to do that.

[THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

This policy has to be clarified. Madam, this Bill lacks these points that I have just mentioned and if the Minister is in a position right now to make these amendments, it is allright because the Bill has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha first, I believe and if he feels that some such change is necessary in the light of the observations made by me or other Members, he may make certain suggestions, certain amendments in the Bill itself and after making these amendments, when it goes to Lok Sabha, it can come back for a formal sanction. But if this Bill is made now, it must be made a foolproof Bill in the manner as would help the industry in the larger context. With time constraint here, I hope that the hon. Minister would take these observations into consideration so that it will really be able to help the jute growers. Otherwise, this will not serve the purpose. These loopholes must be plugged in advance.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद (बिहार) : महोदया, जो यह बिल हम लोगों के सामने पेश किया गया है, जूट पेकेज सामग्री विधेयक, 1987, यह बिल दंतहीन बिल है, टीथलेस बिल है । इस बिल के अंदर जो जूट बैग को इस्तेमाल नहीं करेगा, उसके लिए अनिवार्य प्रावधान नहीं है । इस बिल के अंदर दंड देने का जो प्रावधान है, वह बहुत ही औपचारिक है । इससे कोई विशेष स्थिति में सुधार होगा, यह हमारा अनुमान नहीं है, फिर भी यह एक प्रथम कदम है । इसलिए मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूं ।

आज जूट के जो बेग्ज हैं, उनकी प्रतियोगिता, प्रतिद्वंद्विता सिंथेटिक बैग्ज से है । इसका प्रधान कारण यह है कि सिंथेटिक बेग टिकाऊ होता है दूसरे हल्का होता है, तीसरे सस्ता होता है और बार-बार इस्तेमाल होता है । इसलिए इस

[श्री सूरज प्रसाद]

इस्तेमाल करने की तरफ लोगों का ध्यान बढ़ रहा है। मैं तो यह कहूंगा कि यह आधुनिकता की जो आंधी बह रही है देश के अंदर, उस आधुनिकता की आंधी में हमारा जूट उत्पादक जो किसान है—लगता है कि उड़ जाएगा। जैसे आधुनिकता की आंधी कपास उत्पादक किसान के सामने भयंकर संकट उपस्थित हो गया है, उसी तरह से आधुनिकता की आंधी में जूट उत्पादक किसान के सामने भी एक संकट उपस्थित हो गया है। सरकार ने जूट उत्पादक किसानों को बचाने की सद्इच्छा तो व्यक्त की है। लेकिन बिल के अंदर प्रेक्टिस और प्रोफेशन के बीच कोई संतुलन नहीं है। इसलिए मैं सरकार से कहना चाहूंगा कि सरकार अगर सचमुच में जूट उत्पादक किसानों के स्वार्थों की रक्षा चाहती है तो उसे कुछ और करने की जरूरत है। जूट से बनता है बोरा बैगज़, जूट से बनता है पैकेज मटीरियल, जूट से बनती हैं दरियां, जूट से कोई दूसरी चीज नहीं बनती है इसलिए मैं सरकार से कहना चाहूंगा कि जूट उत्पादक किसानों को कंपटीशन से अगर बचाना है और उनकी जिन्दगी की अगर रक्षा करनी है तो जरूरत इस बात की है कि इस बात पर सरकार को सोचना और विचार करना चाहिए कि क्या जूट का डाइवर्सीफाइड इस्तेमाल हो सकता है, विभिन्न चीजों में इसका इस्तेमाल हो सकता है या नहीं। हमारी समझ यह है कि अगर जूट का इस्तेमाल कपड़ा बनाने में किया जाए इसके लिए अगर रिसर्च की जाए और उसका इस्तेमाल अगर कपड़ा बनाने में हो तो जूट उत्पादक किसानों के सामने जो भयंकर संकट है उससे उनको बचाया जा सकता है। आज जूट उत्पादक किसानों की क्या स्थिति है? जूट का बिहार में, बंगाल में, आसाम में या सरकार ने दाम तय किया था जहां तक मुझे स्मरण है 225/- रु० क्विंटल और जूट बिका है गाज 100/- रु० क्विंटल। अब अनुमान कीजिए कि जूट उत्पादक किसानों की स्थिति क्या हुई होगी? जो मार्जनल और स्माल किसान हैं वे लूट गए हैं। क्यों लूट गए? एक कारण तो स्पष्ट है कि यह जो सिंथेटिक है उसके कंपटीशन में नहीं टिक पाना। दूसरा कारण है बहुत सी मिलों का बंद होना और तीसरा कारण है कि सरकार के द्वारा जो जूट निगम बनाया गया है खरीद के लिए और हमारी सरकार की ओर से बार-बार घोषणा के बावजूद कि जितना भी जूट बाजार में आएगा वह जूट खरीद लिया जाएगा लेकिन जूट निगम खरीदने में असमर्थ रहा है और वह ट्रेडर के साथ मिल-भगत कर जूट किसानों को जो समर्थन मूल्य भी मिलना चाहिए लाभप्रद कीमत की बात तो छोड़ दीजिए यह भी दिलाने में असमर्थ रहा है। इसलिए मैं सरकार से कहना चाहूंगा कि अगर सचमुच में उसकी नीयत साफ है क्योंकि जैसा कि सरकार का मंशा हिन्दुस्तान में मोनोपली क्लास की रक्षा ही लगता है इसलिए मैंने कहा कि यह बिल प्रोफेशन तो इसमें है लेकिन प्रैक्टिस में होगा इसमें डाउट है? इसलिए मैं सरकार से कहना चाहता हूं कि वह इस दिशा में रिसर्च कराने के लिए कुछ कदम उठाए। दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा हमारे और साथियों ने इसके बारे में कहा कि जूट बैग के सामने संकट कहां से और कब पैदा होता है क्योंकि पहले इस देश के अन्दर सीमेंट उद्योग तमाम अपने बैग जूट के इस्तेमाल करता था जितने भी खाद के कारखाने थे वे अपने बैग जूट के इस्तेमाल करते थे चीनी उद्योग भी अपने बैग जूट के इस्तेमाल करता था। लेकिन आज ये तीनों उद्योग सिंथेटिक के बैग इस्तेमाल कर रहे हैं इसलिए जूट की मांग देश के अन्दर कम हो गई है। इसी कारण जूट उद्योग को जो उचित मूल्य मिलना चाहिए जो भी समर्थन मूल्य मिलना चाहिए यह भी नहीं मिल पाता। इसलिये सरकार द्वारा इस बिल के अन्दर कोई अनिवार्य प्रोविजन नहीं किया गया कि ये तीन बड़े उद्योग जो कि देश में हैं इनको कहा नहीं जाएगा कि इसका अनिवार्यतः इस्तेमाल करें और सिर्फ रिक्वेस्ट की जाएगी, कोशिश की जाएगी इस तरह की बातों के करने की और अगर नहीं करें तो सरकार अधिक से अधिक कितना दंड देगी पांच हजार रूपये। बड़े-बड़े कारखानों के लिए यह पांच हजार रुपये

तो समझिए कि एक रसगुल्ला के बराबर हैं। इससे कुछ उनको होने वाला नहीं है।

डा० रुद्र प्रताप सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : आप उसका अपमान कर रहे हैं। ..... (व्यवधान)

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : तो फिर यह गोलगप्पा के समान है। इससे इनका क्या होने वाला है ? इसे वे क्या समझेंगे ? इसलिए मैंने कहा कि यह दंतहीन बिल है। इसको और अधिक तीखा सख्त और मजबूत किया जाना चाहिए। अगर जूट उत्पादक किसानों को बनाना है तो। सरकार की मंशा क्या है ? स्पष्ट होना चाहिए। आज जूट उत्पादक कुर्बान हो रहा है, सिंथेटिक उत्पादन में वह समाप्त हो जाएगा। उनको बचाना जरूरी है। उनका हित सर्वोपरि है जिंदगी सर्वोपरि है और उनका यह प्रधान कार्य है। इसलिए मैं सरकार से चाहूंगा कि कोई इस तरह के इसमें प्रावधान करने चाहिएं, हो सकता है अभी संभव न हो, लेकिन देखें। हम लोगों की कमजोरी है कि हमने कोई अमेंण्डमेंट नहीं किया है, फिर भी मैं कहूंगा कि इस बिल को और मजबूत बनाना चाहिए, इसको और अधिक सख्त बनाना चाहिए, इसको और अधिक व्यापक बनाना चाहिए और अच्छे रूप में इसको लाना चाहिए ताकि जूट उत्पादक किसान जो हैं, जिनके सामने भयंकर समस्या उपस्थित है, उससे उनकी समस्याओं का समाधान हो सके। धन्यवाद।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the honourable Minister.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Madam Deputy Chairman, I am very much thankful to the honourable Members for extending their support to this Bill. What they have actually said is that the other aspects of the jute industry including the interests of the jute growers should be protected.

I will start by saying that we have not tried to cover all aspects of the jute industry in this Bill. I will spell out what we are doing in other areas also. This is a very limited Bill to provide for compulsory use of jute packaging in certain industries.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: But it is very important.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: It is not correct to say that there is no compulsion in this. The main purpose of bringing forward this Bill is to impose compulsion on various industries like the cement industry, sugar industry, fertiliser industry, units packaging foodgrains and industries of this nature. We propose that there should be a legal compulsion on these industries to use a certain percentage and to pack a certain percentage of their production in no material but jute bags. This is the basic purpose and this has been thought of to protect the interests of the jute industry so that more and more jute bags could be used, the competition from the synthetic material could be met and the industry which employs or benefits millions of people in our country is protected in every possible way.

It is true that at present the jute industry is going through a lean period and you can call it a crisis of sorts. Before Partition, most of the jute production came from what later on became East Pakistan. Most of the mills were in Calcutta, but most of the jute came from the eastern part of Bengal and after Partition, the main problem was how to grow enough jute to keep these mills going. It was a great effort and the result today is that we are producing sufficient jute not only to meet our requirements domestically, but also to export outside. The interest of the jute growers is very much in the concern of the Government and we have done a lot of things which I would like to spell out right away.

I mentioned in my opening remarks the interest that the Prime Minister has taken in this sector. He has set apart Rs. 150 crores for modernisation of the jute industry and Rs. 100 crores for the deve-

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

lopment of the other aspects of the jute industry. This has been done because modernisation is necessary. At one time, many many years back, we had the world monopoly in jute and our exports were also large. But, in course of time, the problem of the synthetic material arose. But this problem was not only here, but it was abroad also. One reason why there was a set back to our exports a few years back was that there was the development of synthetics for carpetbagging and for other uses abroad. But now the market is changing and we 6.00 P.M. are trying to enter into that area once again. For protection of jute growers we have the Jute Corporation of India, to which some reference was made, and the responsibility of the Jute Corporation of India is that it has to buy jute offered by cultivators or jute growers at the minimum support price, for which it has opened a hundred purchase centres all over the country, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and of course West Bengal and other States. It has been mentioned that not enough was done for Mesta, of which Andhra Pradesh is an important producer. I will enquire into the complaint made by Mr. Rao. But we have tried that purchases in Andhra Pradesh and in all other States by the Jute Corporation of India are done in a way that it provides relief to the jute cultivators. As regardings the improvement of mesta also, along with other programme we have a programme on jute production, improvement of jute quality and Andhra Pradesh as well as other Governments will be given some assistance from the Central Government for improving the quality of mesta and other things. So this is how we are helping the jute producers.

Another thing I would like to mention is that there has been a break-through and green revolution in wheat and rice. The cotton scene has also changed during the last 7, 8 or 10 years. Seven or eight years back, Madam, we used to import cotton from abroad, almost Rs. 200 crores worth or even more sometimes long-staple cotton from Sudan and Egypt. But today we are in a position to export Rs. 300 crores worth of cotton, apart from textiles, etc. And how has this happened? This has happened, firstly, because research efforts were stepped up and new varieties were evolved; secondly, varieties were taken to the cultivators, to the kisans, with a package of practices; thirdly, marketing support was given by the Cotton Corporation of India so that the producer is assured of a certain minimum price and he goes on improving the production. All the three things we want to do in the case of jute. It is really a sad story that this type of thing has not yet happened in the case of jute, where there is no break-through. On the agricultural research side there has been no attempt made to impove the cultural practices. Marketing has also been done by the J. C. I. But a little more needs to be done. All the three things we are taking up again so far as jute is concerned. The spe. Dev. fund of Rs. 100 crores that has been created is not for the mill-owners, not for the mills. That sector is taken care of by the modernisation fund of Rs. 150 crores. I will just give you the break-up, how it will be spent — Rs. 100 crores:

1.	Jute Agricultural Development Programme	Rs. 25 crores.
2.	Assistance to JCI and its cooperative procurement agencies	Rs. 10 crores.
3.	Product diversification and R & D support:	Rs. 10 crores.
4.	Schemes for the benefit of workers in the Jute industry:	
	(a) Labour Rehabilitation scheme in respect of closed mills	Rs. 10 crores.
	(b) Labour Rationalisation scheme linked to modernisation	Rs. 22.50 crores.
	(c) Part payment of outstanding dues of workers in respect of P.F. and ESI linked to modernisation	Rs. 16 crores.
	(d) Training and Bank finance scheme for the surplus workers of Jute industry	Rs. 5 crores.

We are bringing such a liberal package for the labour, because it was mentioned that modernisation should not lead to retrenchment. It does lead to re-deployment of labour. But the labour's interest is very much in our minds. We are going to retrain them. We want to give benefits to the worker when he retires, much more than what is legally due to him under the statutory provisions in existence at present. So, it is a very liberal and broad-based approach that we have adopted in this Bill. I think the interests of the workers and the labourers who will be affected by modernisation will be protected. I mentioned about marketing, agricultural research and production. All these things have been cared for in this 100 crore package.

It was mentioned as to why the jute Corporation of India is not able to do much. One of the reasons is that we use the cooperative agencies to a large extent and we should do that. We do not want to operate directly. If we have a marketing society of the jute producers, we would go through them. We want to use some of these funds to strengthen the cooperative societies. We want to see that the marketing side is strengthened and everything goes well.

It has been said that the Bill does not have enough teeth and the punishment is not very much. A fear has been expressed that the traders and smaller units might get away. Mr. Matto mentioned it. This is how the whole thing is going to operate. Some units such as cement, sugar and fertiliser units are big units and once the legal compulsion is put asking these units to pack a certain percentage of production into it, it is not difficult to check it.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : आपके दिमाग में कोई बात है कि कितना परसेंटेज वह इस्तेमाल करेंगे ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The main purpose of this is to lay down a certain percentage for packing. Take the case of phosphate fertilisers or other corrosive fertilisers. You cannot use it there. You have to have some other type of synthetic packing. (Interruptions). The Standing Committee is just for this purpose. It will advise. It will have representatives of the Ministry of Chemicals, Ministry of Fertilisers and other users such as sugar industry, Food Corporation of India, etc. These experts will sit together and see how much jute production is available. Jute production is also fluctuating very much. One year it is X amount and next year it is X minus something. We will keep a watch over the whole thing. They will advise after seeing the availability of jute and the demands of various sectors about which I have mentioned. Then they will advise and send a report to the Government that this industry should have this much compulsion for using jute packaging. This is an enabling legislation. The figures would change from year to year and from time to time as the circumstances demand. Therefore, we have put the Standing Advisory Committee which will have as the Bill says, people who have knowledge about the industry. For the time being we want to have various Ministries concerned and various industries. They can sit together. They have all the statistics with them. Then they will advise the Government and the Government will issue orders about the compulsory use. I want to assure the House that this Bill would provide sufficient protection to the jute industry. This is the main purpose of this Bill. It is to see that as much of it as can be brought into is made compulsory. We have to look at both the sides. The percentage will be less in lean year and it will be more in good year.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: I don't object to it. But there is a lacuna. For instance, you tell one industry that they have to use 25 per cent or 50 per cent. There lies the lacuna. They will have more than 50 per cent of synthetic. My opinion is that the Standing Committee should look into it. Instead of saying that you use such and such percentage of jute and such and such percentage of synthetic, a way should be found by the officers or the Standing Committee to this problem.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I again plead there is no lacunae. Once the percentage is fixed, you can monitor it. There is a provision. Enforcement machinery is separate from Advisory committee. We do not want to mix their roles - enfrocement and monitoring. They are spread all over the country and the State Government and other agencies have to be brought in. So, we are taking note of what the hon. Members have said and we will see that the enforcement machinery is strengthened and made effective. These are big industries and I do not think there will be any problem of that nature.

Again, Madam, if you see the provisions, we have made company officers also responsible for contravention under certain circumstances. So, we have tried to plug all the loopholes where the leakage could take place. But I will assure the House that nothing of this nature will take place and whatever suggestions have been made by the Hon. Members to make this Bill more effective, would be kept in mind. Some of the doubts that they have expressed, I have tried to clarify. All I can say is that the interests of jute growers, the jute industry, the jute labour who work in the jute industry are paramount in our mind and this Bill has been brought to give protection to this traditional industry, which is supporting millions of people.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Maybe, you can do it in the Rules. It is very important.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the compulsory use of jute packing material in the supply and distribution of certain commodities in the interests of production of raw jute and jute packaging material, and of persons engaged in the production thereof, and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 17 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was proposed.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Madam, please give me half a minute only. I have a right to speak. The Hon. Minister, while replying has stated that users will be taken to task under this Bill. But the manufacturers should also come under the Rules, manufactureers of this jute cloth or of HDP bags should also come within the purview of the Rules. Right now, for instance you catch hold of a cement factory, who need ten thousand bags per day and you say you have to use such and such percentage of jute in your mill. My point is that these are users. But there are manufacturers also who have to manufacture this. They should also be taken care of under the rules.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : मैं सिर्फ एक मिनट लूंगा। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जूट से कपड़ा बन सकता है या नहीं, इस पर कोई विचार किया गया है ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Madam, I have already said that we have set apart Rs. 10 crores for product diversification and R and D, exactly what the Hon. Member has sugegsted. As regards control over the synthetic sack manufacturers that does not come under our Ministry and. secondly, we do not think it necessary because there are many other uses to which they can be put. Our limited concerned is to see, let us say, a cement factory uses compulsorily what we ask them to use and whether they buy the rest of it from them is their look out and I do not think it necessary to control the synthetic manufacturers so far as this Bill is concerned.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

That the Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Special Mentions.

Shri J. P. Goyal — absent.

REFERENCE TO THE DECLINE IN THE PRODUCTION OF MICA

श्री सूरज प्रसाद (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदया, मैं सरकार का ध्यान बिहार के अंदर अभ्रक उद्योग में जो ह्रास हुआ है उसकी ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं । महोदया, वहां 1970 में अभ्रक की 87 खानें थी जिनकी संख्या घटकर अब 35 हो गई है और जहां अभ्रक का उत्पादन 30 हजार टन होता था वहां अब 3 हजार टन ही होता है । माफिया गिरोह वहां अवैध खनन करते हैं जिसको सरकार रोकने में असमर्थ है । अभ्रक से देश को काफी विदेशी मुद्रा मिलती थी और इससे लोगों को काफी रोजगार मिलता था । इन कारखानों के बन्द होने से काफी लोग बेकार हो गये हैं, उनके सामने कठिनाइयां बढ़ गई हैं । इसलिये जरूरत इस बात की है कि यहां जो अभ्रक निकलता है उसको बचाने की तरफ बिहार सरकार ध्यान दे और बिहार राज्य का जो खनिज विकास निगम है वह उसके विकास की तरफ विशेष ध्यान दे ताकि यह जो अभ्रक उद्योग है उसको बचाया जा सके ।

REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT BOARD OF FORESTRY IN THE INTEREST OF ECOLOGY AND AFORESTATION

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR (Madhya Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, the Indian Forest Service is an all-India service created in 1966 but unfortunately no sufficient importance has been given to this service. In the matter of status, professional freedom and role, this service is at a very low level of hierarchy amongst all the all-India services. This is causing a heavy brain-drain from the service. Very few people opt for this service. We are talking about forestry and enviornmental pollution but if there is dissatisfaction amongst the Indian Forest Service people, it will be difficult to get the work done in regard to forestry. There is a heavy bias in favour of the IAS officers in the States and the Centre but sufficient importance has not been given to the Indian Forest Service. Forestry and allied matters can be very easily separated out and managed by creating an independent Board of Forestry to be manned at all levels by the competent forest officers. If this is lone, forestry and environment will get a real leap forward. They will also get an opportunity to function with professional freedom. Unfortunately, the Fourth Pay Commission of the Cabinet downgraded the status of Conservator of Forests, and no parity has been maintained between Director-General of Police and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. Moreover, there is no cadre management and career development in the Indian Forest Service. This should be done and the cadre management should be transferred from Forest and Environment Department to the Department of Personnel, who will be able to take an integrated approach in regard to the building up of this cadre and attracting talented and devoted officers so that ecological and environmental work and the afforestation would get all impetus and the country will gain thereby. Thank you.

REFERENCE TO THE DELAY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A PETRO-CHEMICALS PROJECT AT SALEMPUR IN ALIGARH (U. P.)

श्री घनश्याम सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदया, आपने अलीगढ़ जनपद के उस प्रोजेक्ट के बारे में जिसकी घोषणा स्वर्गीय श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी जी ने अलीगढ़ दौरे के समय पर